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THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 16 www.associatednewspapers.net

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE

Vol. 130, No. 16

Marge Bergman's handmade quilt was chosen as the overwhelming favorite of visitors to the Belleville Area Museum 29th Annual Quilt Show last month.

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THE CANTON EAGLE

Vol. 68, No. 16

Young Frankenstein takes the main stage for six performances at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill on April 17 - 19 and 24 - 26 performed by the Spotlight Players.

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THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR

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Inkster-based Starfish Family Services has chosen Rebecca A. Boylan and Thomas W. Sidlik as the Great Hearts Award honorees this year.

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THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE

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The Feed a Need club at Northville High School will host a charity dinner from 6-8 p.m. tomorrow, April 17, to benefit Northville Civic Concern.

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Plymouth Township has filed for a reconsideration through the Michigan Court of Appeals, seeking to overturn the court decision to return 190-acres of land to Detroit.

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THE ROMULUS ROMAN

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The City of Romulus has some new events planned to celebrate Earth Day that are all free and open to the public.

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THE WAYNE EAGLE

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The Wayne Police Department and McDonald's will host Coffee with a Cop from 9 to 11 a.m. this Saturday at the Wayne McDonald's.

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THE WESTLAND EAGLE

Vol. 68, No. 16

Richard LeBlanc, a Wayne County Commissioner from Westland, has filed the election forms required to place his name on the Aug. 4 ballot as a candidate for Westland City Clerk.

See page 4.

Question of special county election raised

Don Howard
Staff Writer

The recent appointment of Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price as the new Plymouth Township supervisor is causing concern among some Republican Party members who say that his county job may have to be filled with a costly special election.

> *Price was only 100 days into his second term and now we're faced with the expense of a special election.*

Shannon Price

According to the Wayne County Charter…" If a vacancy occurs in the office of a Commissioner, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment within 30 days with an appointee belonging to the same political party as the previous Commissioner."

However, Township Precinct Delegate and member of the Wayne County Republican Committee Richard Sharland discovered that the county charter also dictates that if a vacancy occurs on the county commission and is filled in an odd-numbered year, the appointee will only serve until a successor is elected in special election. (Wayne County Charter Section 3.112 c.) There were revisions to the Michigan Election Law in August of 2013 that invalidates that section, according to Canton Township Clerk Terry Bennett.

Price's letter of resignation was received by the Wayne County Commission office Monday afternoon, according to a commission spokesman. Price said that he began his first day as Plymouth Township supervisor the same day, after being sworn in by Township Clerk Nancy Conzelman during a private ceremony with his family present.

Sharland, however, was less than enthusiastic about Price's appointment.

"Price was only 100 days into his second term and now we're faced with the expense of a special election," said Sharland, who is convinced the county charter provisions require a special election. "Something the township board said when they selected Price over other candidates was that they didn't want was to have the taxpayers foot the bill for an election, and now we find out we're faced with this."

Wayne County has an expiring parks millage and could call a special election in an effort to renew the levy in August or November, explained Bennett, and include the commission seat

See **Election,** page 2

Work of art

Wedding dress at center of international project

Who better than professional photographers to help fund an organization that restores smiles to children?

No one, decided local photographer Helen Yancy who joined an elite group of 100 creative professionals recently when she agreed to participate in an effort to raise funds for an international charity, Operation Smile. The international charity funds corrective surgery for birth defects and problems like cleft lip, cleft palate and facial deformities for children around the world.

Yancy, a Plymouth resident who is also an artist and past president of the Professional Photographers of America, agreed to be part of The Traveling Dress Project, a somewhat complicated effort to support Operation Smile.

Yancy said she was sure the organizer of the project, Minnesota photographer Ginella Simon, selected her to participate based on her professional credentials as the two have never met. She agreed to join selected photographers across the country who have been challenged to produce an original image of a model posing in the same vintage wedding gown.

The idea was born when Simon found the old, but still gorgeous, gown about a year or so ago in a thrift shop. Simon produced one of the first photos and issued the challenge to her professional associates across the country, many of whom have already responded with dazzling displays of photographic originality. Not to be outdone, Yancy asked Bobbie Jean Kaster, her granddaughter-in-law, who was the necessary tiny size, to model the gown and then devised her setting for the portrait. The two used Sean O'Callaghan's Pub in downtown Plymouth for one of their locations and the Dearborn Inn for another.

"I loved the idea of the saloon bride," Yancy said. "And this was made even better because Bobbie Jean didn't have a formal wedding and this project really made her feel special."

Helen Yancy

As part of the Traveling Dress Project, Helen Yancy produced an oil painting from a photograph of her granddaughter-in-law in the vintage wedding dress.

Yancy said that while photographers are given a list of rules regarding the dress and told it is a size 4, her model was a size 0 and it fit her perfectly.

"I suspect there may be a lot of people cramming themselves into that dress," she said with a laugh.

Yancy's work will be some-

See **Dress,** page 4

3 arrested, charged in Westland fatal shooting

An illegal gun sale that went wrong resulted in the death of a 21-year-old Redford man whose body was found in his parked car in Westland.

Three men, Arlandus Nolen II, 18, and Daveion Dix, 19, both of Inkster and Arlandus Nolen, Sr., 39, of Roseville were arrested and charged in the shooting which took place at about 10:30 p.m. March 28. Police were called to the scene by neighbors who reported hearing shots fired. When police arrived, they found McClendon seated in the driver's seat of his vehicle dead from multiple gunshot wounds.

Police said that two guns were involved in the shooting and that multiple spent 40-caliber and 9mm casings were found at the scene. Investigators said that evidence located at the scene let police to a home in the 29000 block of Rosewood in Inkster where a search warrant was executed. Investigators said Nolen Jr. and Dix were meeting the victim to illegally sell him a 9mm handgun. Nolen II and Dix have been arraigned in district court on charges of first-degree murder, armed robbery and felony firearm. Dix is also charged as a habitual offender as the result of a 2014 conviction for carrying a concealed weapon.

Not guilty pleas were entered on their behalf and they were remanded to police custody without bond.

Nolen Sr. was charged with felony accessory after the fact, being a felon in possession of a firearm, felony firearm and being a habitual offender as he has two prior felony convictions including carjacking in 1997 and being a prisoner in possession of a weapon in 2003.

The three are scheduled for a preliminary court examination on the charges April 30 at 18th District Court in Westland.

Plymouth

Township will appeal decision on DeHoCo land

Plymouth Township has filed for a reconsideration through the Michigan Court of Appeals, seeking to overturn the court decision to return 190-acres of land to the City of Detroit.

Ownership of the land located at Five Mile and Ridge roads has been in dispute since attorneys for Detroit filed a lawsuit seeking to reclaim the land purchased by the township at a tax foreclosure sale for $606,150 in 2011. The land had been assessed at $15 million and reduced to $8 million at the last recorded valuation.

The land is part of the former Detroit House of Corrections property and was being leased to a local farmer by the City of Detroit prior to the title dispute and tax foreclosure sale.

In February, Wayne County Circuit Court Chief Judge Robert Columbo Jr. ruled that the land should be returned to the City of Detroit as the legal owner and that the tax foreclosure sale was improper. Detroit attorneys claimed in their legal arguments that as public land, the property was not subject to tax foreclosure. In earlier arguments, the attorneys noted, too, that the city was never properly notified of any amount of tax due on the land.

According to official title records, Plymouth Township incorrectly recorded ownership of the land as one 323-acre parcel rather than splitting the land into two separate parcels. A 133-acre section was purchased by a development corporation while the 190-acre section was still owned by the City of Detroit. Tax notices for the entire 323 acres were then erroneously sent to the corporation which defaulted and did make any tax payments on any portion of the land.

> *Bennett further argues in his filing that Detroit was aware of the taxes due and the pending foreclosure sale.*

The township then notified the office of the Wayne County Treasurer that 2007 and 2008 taxes on the entire section had not been paid and the foreclosure sale of the entire acreage was scheduled. Plymouth Township officials were the only bidders on the land at the sale.

Representing Plymouth Township in the appeal of Columbo's ruling, attorney Kevin Bennett claims that the 2010 State Tax Commission bulletin exempting municipal property from foreclosure did not recognize that the land is only exempted when it is used for a public purpose. He noted in his court filing that Detroit left the land undeveloped and therefore the State Tax Commission exceeded it's authority in exempting the land and the "inclusion of municipally-owned land is flawed."

Bennett further argues in his filing that Detroit was aware of the taxes due and the pending foreclosure sale. He claims that the city knew of the obligation to pay taxes on the land, despite the failure of the township to send notices to the correct owner.

The City of Detroit also named the Wayne County treasurer and the county itself as defendants in the original suit. The county has claimed that they have no responsibility in the matter and acted properly as the actions taken were based solely on information provided to them by Plymouth Township.

Chief Deputy Wayne County Treasurer David Szymanski said at the time of Columbo's ruling that the dispute is between the City of Detroit and Plymouth Township and that the actions of the county were appropriate in light of the information provided by the township.

Detroit attorneys have until March 20 to file their arguments for retaining title to the land with the court of appeals. They have said that the city is willing to entertain an offer to purchase the land from the township.

Election

FROM PAGE 1

on that ballot. In Canton, a special election costs about $44,000, she said.

James Toth, director of public information for the Wayne County Commission, said that a special election would not be required.

"The charter allows the commission to fill the vacancy within 30 days and requires the appointment to be of the same political party as the departing commissioner. The charter also calls for a special election if the appointment is made with more than one year left in the term, but state law (Public Act 84 of 2013) rendered that portion moot, so the appointee will serve the remainder of the term," Toth said. He also included the Michigan Public Acts Table of the amended state election laws from 2013 which says that the odd numbered year special election requirement is eliminated unless the vacancy is not filled by appointment.

"I think the confusion regarding PA 84 of 2013 is that it amended County Commissions PA 261 of 1966 in chapter 46. Wayne County is organized under PA 293 of 1966, the Charter County Enabling Act," Sharland said.

Price was recommended for the position of supervisor by a political action committee or PAC, according to Sharland. The group, called the Wayne 11th Congressional District Committee, may recommend a candidate or endorse their choice to fill a vacancy, as occurred with Price, but they are not empowered to make the final selection of a candidate recommendation, Sharland contends.

> *The charter allows the commission to fill the vacancy within 30 days and requires the appointment to be of the same political party as the departing commissioner.*

"That is a job for the Wayne County Republican Committee," he added.

The Wayne 11th Congressional District Republican Committee Chairman Carl Berry has reportedly already recommended local Plymouth attorney Joe Barone for the appointment to fill the remainder of Price's 2-year term. That may or may not be the recommendation of the state Republican Party, however, as the official state Republican Party Committee website lists Dillon Breen as the Wayne County chairman. Berry is not listed among the official district committee members. These are two separate Republican entities, Sharland said.

According to the Michigan Campaign Finance Act 388 of 1976, 169.211, Sec. 11, Part 6, "There shall not be more than 1 (one) officially designated political party committee per county and per congressional district."

Sharland has suggested the official recommendation of the party could differ from that submitted by Berry.

Paul Garon, a Republican Party precinct delegate, agrees with Sharland regarding the appointment of Price requiring a special election in both Plymouths and Canton Township to fill his commission seat.

Garon said he is worried that the party will lose one of the only two seats it currently holds on the 15-member Wayne County Commission.

"They're (the 11th District committee) throwing us under the bus. I feel betrayed." Garon said.

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BELLEVILLE - ROMULUS

Earth Day celebrations set in Romulus

The City of Romulus has some new events planned to celebrate Earth Day that are all free and open to the public.

For the second year, "Mother Nature" hosted a story and craft time at Romulus Public Library earlier this week. Mother Nature was played by City of Romulus, Director of Community Outreach Jazmine Danci. Danci is a life-long resident of Romulus and has masters and bachelors degrees in the environment and sustainability and also organized the other Earth Day events in the city.

"Earth Day is my favorite holiday and I was so happy to share that passion with the children at this story time event," Danci said

There will be an Eco-Fair from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. April 20 at Romulus City Hall, 11111 Wayne Road. This is the main feature of the Earth Day celebrations, Danci said.

Local organizations will be in attendance to pass out environmental information and giveaways. Groups present will include DTE, Waste Management highlighting Romulus' new recycling system that will start in July, the Wayne County Conservation District and more.

There will also be an Old City Acres Local Farm Tour. The farm is locally owned and operated farm located right in Romulus, Danci said.

The city has partnered with Old City Acres farmer and Romulus resident Alex Ball to host a tour of one of his farming locations.

"What makes Old City Acres different than other local farms is that they grow all of their vegetables using the most sustainable and natural methods possible. No pesticides, herbicides or insecticides are used," Danci said.

Tour participants will meet at 2 p.m. April 25 in the Romulus City Hall parking lot. There will be a bus available on a first come-first serve basis and others are welcome to follow in their own vehicle to the farm where Ball will give a tour and talk about his operation.

The Romulus Public Library will be hosting an event about climate change and how individuals can help cut down on their environmental impacts given by Jerry Hasspacher.

Hasspacher is the chair of the Sierra Club SEMG Green Schools Promotion Committee, chair of the Sierra Club SEMG Green Cruise, Citizen Member of the City of Warren Environmental Advisory Committee and a Member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee to the Southeast Michigan Regional Transportation Authority. This program will begin at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30.

Space is limited, so pre-registration is required by calling (734) 942-7589.

"Earth Day is an important reminder of all the precautions we should be taking to protect our environmental all year round. I hope the residents are able to attend some of the fun and informational events we have planned for this year," said Mayor LeRoy Burcroff.

Jazmine Danci appeared as Mother Nature to read stories to children as part of Earth Day celebrations throughout the city last year. This year, Danci again donned her costume to entertain and educate children and helped plan several new Earth Day events in the city.

Library board OK's fee to help find director

Replacing Belleville Area District Library Director Debra Green could be an expensive process.

The library board of directors has agreed to hire consulting firm Hartzell-Mika to help in determining the qualifications necessary to fill Green's position. The cost for the consultant's services will be determined at a meeting of the board this month. Hartzell-Mika is an East Lansing company and had proposed services at $4,000 and $4,500 to help in finding candidates for the $75,000 to $80,000 job. Board members suggested using the consultants in final interviews, appropriate interview questions, reference checks, and other details of the job search. Applications for the job will be accepted until April 30.

Board members expressed concern about hiring an individual who would stay in the job for an extended time. Green, who was present at the meeting, said that it is not unusual in libraries to have a director who stays only one or two years before finding someone who settles in for a long-term commitment to the job.

Barbara Miller, an audience member, cautioned the board not to hesitate using a professional firm to fill the position. She reminded them that the library director was paid $80,000 plus benefits and was in charge of an annual $1 million budget, making the $4,500 professional fee negligible. She also reminded the board members of the time and detail involved in checking references, making a professional consultant a worthwhile investment, in her opinion, she said.

Board members appeared to agree to keep the consultancy fee at no more than $5,000 and to have members of the board meet with representatives of Hartzell-Mika to design a program specific to the needs of the Belleville library and community.

Crowd favorite

Marge Bergman shows off her handmade quilt which was chosen as the overwhelming favorite of visitors to the Belleville Area Museum 29th Annual Quilt Show. Bergman's quilt was voted the best in the show last month. Kay Wurm of Tecumseh was the winner of the prize basket donated by Kay Atkins of Threads 'N Treasures in Belleville. Volunteer docents from the Western Wayne County Quilt Guild helped guests during the show. The museum is open from 3-7 p.m. Tuesday, and from noon until 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Library hosts 2 authors

Romulus Public Library has planned a series of programs for April.

Author Teresa Irish will be speaking about her book "A Thousand Letters Home: One WWII Soldier's Story of War, Love and Life." At 6:30 p.m. April 20.

Following her father's death, Irish found packets of letters he wrote during his time in World War II. Her book is comprised of selections from those original letters placed into historical context with excerpts from the book 102d through Germany (published by the division in 1945.)

Jerry Hasspacher will be presenting an Earth Day program titled "Climate Change and You" at 6:30 p.m. April 30.

The environment is the basis of the web of life and a healthy environment can only be assured through environmentally knowledgeable citizens acting responsibly, Hasspacher said.

All programs are subject to change. Registration for the free event is available by visiting the library or by phone at (734) 942-7589. Space is limited. All programs will take place at the Romulus Public Library, located at 11121 Wayne Road in Romulus.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, April 30, 2015 for the following:

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS & ACCESSORIES

Bids may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, on our website at www.canton-mi.org, or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: 734/394-5225. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon a two week notice to the Charter Township of Canton. These services include signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:

Gwyn Belcher, ADA Coordinator
Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road
Canton, MI 48188
(734) 394-5260

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Charter Township of Canton
Board Proceedings – April 7, 2015

A regular study meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan. Supervisor LaJoy called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. **ROLL CALL** Members Present: Anthony, Bennett, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Sneideman, Williams Members Absent: Yack Staff Present: Director Bilbrey-Honsowetz, Jon LaFever, Greg Hohenberger, Greg Bores, Gregg King, Dave Harris, Ann Marie Carravallah, Jeanette Williams. Guests: Jeff LeBlanc –General Manager, Jason McIntyre –Superintendent, Brian Brown –Director of Sales, Fellows Creek Support Team Nick Bednar, PGA –Regional Director of Operations, Rob Higby -Regional Director of Marketing, Michael Stevens –Regional Director of Agronomy **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by all members present. **STUDY SESSION TOPIC: Leisure Services Department Update** The Board was presented a PowerPoint update by Director Bilbrey-Honsowetz and her staff. **PHEASANT RUN** - Statistics from the 2014 season; Pheasant Run Operations; Annual Forecast & Projections; Capital Plan; Bond Schedule; Revenue Improvements; 2014 Events & Key Statistics; Pheasant Run hosted; Key Statistics; Trustee Williams asked if the projected capital expenses are covered by the current bonds or will the township be required to do additional bonds. Director Bilbrey-Honsowetz explained it depends on the particular item. **FELLOWS CREEK GOLF CLUB UPDATE:** Nick Bednar presented the Fellows Creek Update. Meet the Fellows Creek Team; Agenda; Mr. Bednar presented several photographs of improvements done to the Pro Shop, bunkers on the course, drainage, tee-marker areas, cart staging areas, yardage markers, etc. The #9 South green has been relocated to prevent golf balls getting onto Lotz Road. This also served to make the hole more player-friendly. Recommended Plan for Irrigation System; Produce and Service are a Top Priority; Accountability; Utilization (May – September 2014 – 7 am – 6pm): 2015 Daily Fee Strategy Development; 2015 Major Strategies; 2015 Revenue "Playbook"; "Compass' Review 2015 Strategies Measured Weekly; 2015 Daily Fee Strategy; 2015 League Update; Outing & Banquet Sales; Memberships; Members receive great benefits; House Events; High School Golf; Junior Golf; FootGolf; WomenOnCourse; World's Largest Golf Outing; **AQUATIC CENTER SUMMIT AND GYMNASIUM RENOVATIONS:** Executive Summary; Original Capital Project Scope; Summit Aquatic Center Renovations; Value Engineering Opportunities; Capital Proposal; Proposed Project Scope; Project Timeline **PATRIOT PARK MASTER PLAN DRAFT:** Patriot Park Master Plan; Park System Update Patriot Park Master Plan; Survey Themes; Patriot Park Master Plan – Youth Sports Game Field* Improvements; Patriot Park Master Plan; Time Line **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:** None. **OTHER:** None **ADJOURN:** Motion by Bennett, supported by Williams to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. Motion carried by all members present. Terry G. Bennett, Clerk

Copies of the PowerPoint as well as the complete text of the Board Minutes are available at the Clerk's office of the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd, Canton, MI 48188, 734-394-5120, during regular business hours and can also be accessed through our web site www.canton-mi.org after Board Approval.

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NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

APRIL 16, 2015

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON

1150 CANTON CENTER S., CANTON, MI 48188 (734) 394-5225

On or about May 18, 2015 the Charter Township of Canton will submit a request to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974**,** as amended, to undertake the following projects**:** PROJECT 1: Housing Rehabilitation, $150,000 for the purpose of repairing residential homes. PROJECT 2: ADA Improvements to Township Facilities, $ 65,000 for the purpose of bringing township facilities into ADA compliance. PROJECT 3: Historic Preservation, $75,000 for the purpose of preserving a historic landmark. Canton Township will perform a second tier environmental review on each specific property and this information will be kept in a file for documentation purposes.

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act requirements— An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Finance Department**,** 1150 Canton Center S, Canton MI 48188 where ERR can be examined. This document may be examined or copied weekdays between 9 A.M. and 4 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Finance Dept, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton MI 48188. All comments received by May 18, 2015 will be considered by Canton Township prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Charter Township of Canton certifies to HUD that Philip J. LaJoy in his capacity as Township Supervisor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows Canton Township to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the Charter Township of Canton certification received by May 18, 2015 or for a period of fifteen days following its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Charter Township of Canton; (b) the Charter Township of Canton has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD**;** or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to HUD at McNamara Federal Building, 477 Michigan Avenue, Detroit MI 48226. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Philip J. LaJoy, Township Supervisor Publish: April 16, 2015 EC041615-1113 2.5 x 5.423

INKSTER - WAYNE - WESTLAND

County commissioner hopes to replace retiring clerk

Richard LeBlanc, a Wayne County Commissioner from Westland, has filed the election forms required to place his name on the Aug. 4 ballot as a candidate for Westland City Clerk.

LeBlanc is the first candidate to file for the position. Current City Clerk Eileen DeHart-Schoof has confirmed she will not be a candidate for re-election and has endorsed LeBlanc to succeed her.

Westland Mayor William Wild, all members of the Westland City Council, State Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood, State Sen. David Knezek, State Rep. Robert Kosowski, State Rep. Julie Plawecki, County

Commissioner Al Haidous, and former mayor and current member of the Wayne-Westland Board of Education Charles Trav Griffin, are among several elected officials who have endorsed LeBlanc.

"As a local legislator, I've been an effective advocate for the residents of our communities, helping

people for more than two decades. If elected, Westland residents will receive the same high level of conscientious service from the city clerk and staff that has been the hallmark of the office since we became a city in 1966," LeBlanc said.

DeHart-Schoof said she is planning to retire and feels LeBlanc would be good for the city.

"I have worked closely with Richard for nearly two decades and believe he will make an excellent Westland City Clerk. Longstanding public service is something we share, and I am confident I will be leaving the office to a person with unquestionable professional conduct. I plan to do all I can to assist in his election."

Wild stated, "The relationship my administration has had with Richard during his service as our county commissioner and as our state representative has been exceptional. We share a positive vision for our community, and I offer my highest level of support for his election."

Other elected officials serving the Westland community who have to date endorsed LeBlanc include: Wayne County Community College District Trustee Sharon Scott, and Wayne-Westland Board of Education President Thomas Buckalew, along with board members Melandie Hines, Carol Middel, Shawna Walker and Dr. Frederick Weaver.

Former Westland City Clerks Diane Fritz, Nancy Bonaparte, and Joanne Seaberg have endorsed LeBlanc. In addition, all municipal labor organizations serving Westland employees: the Westland Firefighters of IAFF Local 1279, Westland Police Officers Association, Westland Police Lieutenants and Sergeants Association, Westland DPS Local 1602 employees, and the Westland Supervisory Union are supporting LeBlanc during the 2015 election cycle.

LeBlanc is in his second term on the Wayne County Commission. He previously served as the 18th District State Representative for three terms, the Westland City Council for three terms, and the Wayne-Westland Board of Education for one term.

He has lived in Westland for nearly 56 years, and has volunteered as an member of numerous boards and commissions since 1988.

In addition to his elective service, LeBlanc was employed by the Ford Motor Co., and served 22 years with the Canton Police Department in a part-time capacity. He holds a bachelors degree in business administration.

He and his wife, Cheryl, are the parents of two adult sons and have three grandchildren.

Wayne schedules Coffee With A Cop Saturday

The Wayne Police Department and McDonald's will host Coffee with a Cop from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 18 at the Wayne McDonald's, 35111 W. Michigan Ave. in Wayne. The event is free and open to the public.

"We are pleased to create this opportunity to engage the Wayne Police Department for local residents and other area business owners," said Marla Thrower, McDonald's owner and operator. "McDonald's is always looking for ways to engage our customers, support our local community and are committed to inspiring involvement from our neighbors."

Coffee with a Cop is a national program designed to bring together police officers and community members in an informal setting to discuss issues that are important to them, build relationships and enjoy a complimentary cup of McDonald's McCafé coffee. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions, voice concerns and get to know the men and women who protect and serve them every day, according to a prepared statement from the department.

Implemented in more than 175 cities in 36 states, Coffee with a Cop helps break down communication barriers between police officers and the community and increase trust, which is critical to the public safety and problem solving.

"We hope that community members will feel comfortable to ask questions, bring concerns, or simply get to know our officers," said Wayne Police Chief Alan Maciag. "These interactions are the foundation of community partnerships."

Starfish Family Services honors 2 'Great Hearts'

Inkster-based Starfish Family Services has chosen Rebecca A. Boylan and Thomas W. Sidlik as the Great Hearts Award honorees at the Turning the Tide for Children event on Thursday, April 30, at Cobo Center in Detroit.

"Rebecca and Tom inspire us with their generous spirit and commitment to our community," said Ann Kalass, Starfish Chief Executive Officer. "Rebecca is a past chair and long-time board member of Starfish Family Services. She and Tom both believe that children cannot achieve their full potential without a strong education," Kalass added.

"They appreciate that children must arrive at kindergarten mentally, emotionally and physically prepared in order to take advantage of our educational system. Rebecca and Tom are dedicated to Starfish Family Services because our mission is to provide that preparation, starting at birth, for the clients we serve."

This year, the event focuses on the importance of the first five years in a child's life. Funds raised from the event will be used to fund Starfish early childhood and parenting/caregiver education. This year, Starfish has expanded its programs in Detroit through the new Thrive by Five Detroit program, which will serve more than 1,300 children and their families annually.

Event tickets are $150 and include dinner and valet parking. Event sponsorships are also available. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit starfishonline.org.

Dress

FROM PAGE 1

what different from other photographers as she is renowned for her oil paintings, turning photos into portraits, which is the technique she used for the work she sent to The Traveling Dress Project.

"It is a wonderful cause, and what cause could be better for photographers, really?" Yancy said. "I did it because I wanted to do it and it was fun. It really was fun."

Participating photographers don't have a great deal of time for the work. They are allowed one day on which they receive the dress in the mail. They have another day to shoot all their photos and they must ship the dress on to the next participant the third day.

Yancy has been an artist "my whole life." She is a professional photographer and has owned her own studio and business "since I was a kid." She admitted she lied about her age to open her own business and has never looked back. She is self-taught, for the most part, she said, but has earned her national reputation with skills and techniques she has garnered from her involvement in professional associations and from other photographers. Her reputation has led her to teach others at universities and colleges across the country, she said.

The wedding dress used in the project has been across the country since it began to travel in September of last year and has been in front of photographers in Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom. The final photographs are expected to be taken in December of this year and then the collected work of the photographers including one photo from each of those selected will be published in book form and sold with proceeds going to benefit Operation Smile. For more information about Operation Smile, visit http://www.operationsmile.org.

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Canton - Northville

Spotlight Players present Young Frankenstein

Mel Brooks and Gene Wilder's 1974 classic film Young Frankenstein captivated audiences when it opened on Broadway in 2007 as a musical. Now, Canton audiences will be able to witness the hijinks on stage at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill for six performances on April 17 - 19 and 24 - 26, 2015 with Friday and Saturday performances at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Young Frankenstein follows Victor Frankenstein's grandson, Dr. Frederick Frankenstein, as he discovers that he has inherited his family's estate in Transylvania. Frankenstein teams up with a hunchbacked side-kick, Igor, a flirty lab assistant, Inga, and the housekeeper, Frau Bleucher. When Frankenstein joins the family business of mad scientists he brings a creature to life and hilarity ensues. Onstage Young Frankenstein brings to life those favorite movie moments such as Puttin' on the Ritz and adds new show-stopping numbers including: Please Don't Touch Me, Transylvania Mania, and He Vas My Boyfriend.

Josh Getto takes the lead as Dr. Frederick Frankenstein.

"The role of Frederick has given me a once in a lifetime opportunity to live out some lifelong dreams, like patronizing med students and performing brain surgery without the proper apparatus or equipment. But if I had to pick one thing that I enjoy the most it would be having a minion for sure. Ever since I was a kid, I dreamed of having someone to do my bidding," explained Getto.

> *Nothing can top Igor dancing and singing like a fool, all done with a cockney accent.*

Jason Cooper joins Spotlight Players for his second production this season as Dr. Frederick Frankenstein's minion, Igor. Igor's relentless weirdness is Cooper's favorite quality of his character.

"Every line that comes out of his mouth is funny, so it's pretty easy to let Igor loose. He just keeps getting weirder and weirder as the show goes on. It's certainly the most challenging role I've ever played. Nothing can top Igor dancing and singing like a fool, all done with a cockney accent. He is certainly one of the funniest characters I've ever played."

"Mel Brooks really kept the soul of the movie when he created the musical. Many of the lines, jokes and quotable moments were included word for word, and the singing just creates another level of Mel Brooks' madness to love. I think that diehard fans will love the musical, but wonder why we didn't do it in black and white," Getto said.

Young Frankenstein takes the main stage for six performances on April 17 - 19 and 24 - 26. Run time is two hours and 45 minutes with a 15 minute intermission. Seating is assigned, so advance tickets are recommended. Young Frankenstein is rated PG 13, which advises parents that some material in this show may be unsuitable for children under the age of 13.

Tickets are range from $15-$18 each. They can be purchased by calling the box office at (734) 394-5300 or by visiting http://www.spotlightplayersmi.org/.

Tickets are also available for purchase at the box office one hour prior to show time. The Village Theater is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton.

For additional information, visit www.cantonvillagetheater.org.

Feed A Need club will host dinner tomorrow

The Feed a Need club at Northville High School will host a charity dinner from 6-8 p.m. tomorrow, April 17, to benefit Northville Civic Concern.

The cost for the dinner, catered by Genitti's Hole-in-the-Wall, is $10 and there will be raffles during the evening for prizes donated by local businesses. Items for auction include tickets for admission to the Marquis Theatre, items from Starring the Gallery, Lorla's shoe store, Dancing Eye Gallery and themed gift baskets.

The dinner menu includes pasta, salad, beverages and dessert.

Entertainment will be provided by the Northville High Treblemakers a cappella choir.

Feed a Need club members work to provide help to the community and provide service opportunity for students. Last year, the dinner hosted by the group generated about $2,000 for Northville Civic Concern, an all-volunteer organization which helps local families in need with groceries, toiletries and cleaning products.

Tickets for the dinner will be available at the door or can be reserved by email at feedaneedmi@gmail.com.

On the job

Canton Township Deputy Police chief Scott Hilden welcomes new officer Corey Altheim, to the department during his oath of office March 30. Altheim, like all new police officers in Canton was required to successfully complete a 16-week instructor-led field training program, prior to working on his own. This program is designed to orientate and develop recruit officers, maximizing their potential and providing them with the tools necessary to successfully make the transition into their new position as a Canton Police Officer, according to a department spokesman.

Board OK's demolition cost

Northville Township will pay $197,200 to have one of the buildings at the former Northville Psychiatric Hospital demolished.

Township trustees unanimously approved a demolition contract with Adamo Group at a March 19 meeting. Building 72 will undergo asbestos abatement before demolition. The township, which owns the land, previously contracted with Adamo to demolish the former Scott Prison at Five Mile and Beck roads. According to Trustee Marv Gans, Adamo was the low bidder and the township has had success in working with the business previously.

The township paid $19,530 for asbestos and hazardous materials survey at the building last year.

When all the buildings are demolished at the site, the township plans to develop park land on the property. Voters in the township approved a $23.5 million bond in 2009 to buy the land.

REIS, which owns the adjacent former hospital property, has already begun construction on retail and commercial buildings near the new University of Michigan Medical facility.

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Calendar of events

Volunteers needed

Plymouth Community United Way needs volunteers to clean yards in Plymouth, and Plymouth and Canton townships on Saturday, April 25 during its Rake~N~Go. The event helps senior citizens and developmentally disabled adults.

Volunteers are asked to bring rakes, garden tools, hedge trimmers, leaf blowers, and gloves. United Way will supply the yard waste bags.

To volunteer, call (734) 453-6879, ext. 7 or e-mail randi.williams@pcuw.org. Deadline to apply is Monday, April 20.

Plymouth Community United Way organizes two raking events a year: Make a Difference Day in fall and Rake~N~Go in spring. Last November, more than 300 volunteers cleaned 67 yards of senior citizens and people with disabilities.

Legislator sets local meeting

State Rep. Kurt Heise invites residents of the 20th House district to meet with him in Northville this month for coffee to discuss state and local issues.

Heise's coffee hours are scheduled for7:30 until 9 a.m. Friday, April 17 at Panera Bread, located at 20140 Haggerty Road in Northville.

"One of the most rewarding parts of my job is getting to meet with and hear from individuals in our community," said Heise, R-Plymouth.

No appointments are necessary for these office hours. Residents who are not able to attend are encouraged to contact Heise's office by phone at 1-855-REP-KURT, or by email at KurtHeise@house.mi.gov.

Art contest under way

State Sen. David Knezek is sponsoring an Art contest for students in grades K-8 for the Springtime in Michigan Art Contest. Winners in every grade will have their artwork on display in Lansing and be invited to join Knezek for a day at the Capitol.

The deadline for entries is May 10. Artwork should be submitted to Sen. David Knezek, AttN: 2015 Art Contest, P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, Mi 48909.

Sale supports seniors

The Salvation Army will host a Rummage Sale at the Plymouth facility, 9451 S. Main St. in Plymouth from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Friday, April 17.

Rent for a table to sell items is $20.

All proceeds from the sale will help support The Salvation Army Older, Wiser and Loving Senior Group.

For more information, call (734) 453-5464, ext.22.

Lions alumni play basketball

Members of the Detroit Lions Alumni team will take on the Northville Mustangs alumni in a basketball game beginning at 7 p.m. April 17 at Northville High School.

The game is a fundraiser for substance abuse prevention and is suitable for the entire family. Players will be available for autographs and there will be prize drawings and a 50/50 raffle. Dorrs will open at 6 p.m.

Announcing the game will be Blaine Fowler from 96.3 WDVD.

Tickets are priced at $5 and can be purchased at the door or the Northville High Schools Athletics office or Hiller's on Center Street in Northville.

A family ticket rate for up to six people is available for $20.

Chamber plans night at races

The horses may be about two weeks late crossing the finishing line, but odds are no one will be complaining during the Kentucky Derby: A Night at the Races planned for 6:30 p.m. April 18.

The event is the 28th annual dinner and auction organized by the Canton Chamber of Commerce. Tickets to the event, planned at Burton Manor, are priced at $75 per person and feature an open bar, a strolling dinner, live auctions and raffles, along with entertainment for the expected crowd.

Organizers said that there will be video footage every half hour of past horse races from various tracks and those in attendance can "bet" on their favorites to win, place and show and win prizes during the evening.

Auction items this year include jewelry, condominium time shares and tickets to sporting events along with a pair of airline tickets any destination in the continental United States. The event is sponsored this year by Jack Demmer Ford, Inc. and Oakwood Healthcare Systems.

For tickets or information, call (734) 453-4040.

Church gives away clothing

The fifth annual Free-Style event at Willow Church is planned for 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. April 18.

The event benefits anyone in the community struggling to afford clothing. Individuals are invited to show up, browse the basement transformed into the Free Style boutiques and take what they need.

The church is located at 36925 Willow Road in New Boston.

More information is available at (734) 654-9020.

Electronic waste collected, shredding available

Plymouth Township has scheduled an electronic waste collection and documents shredding event from 9 a.m. until noon April 18 at the Compuware Sports Arena parking lot, 14900 Beck Road.

Participants are asked to use the north entrance to dispose of computers, laptops, keyboards, mice, CRT and LCD monitors, TVs, VCRs, CD players and DVD players, printers, fax machines, stereos and speakers, cell phone and telephones, microwave ovens and Christmas lights, game consoles and handheld electronic devices, computer parts and cables.

Documents from shredding should be in bags or boxes, however boxes will be returned to participants for disposal.

A household hazardous waste collection day will be April 25.

Library presents Mockingjay: Part 1

The Romulus Public Library will present the teen movie Mockingjay: Part 1 at 2 p.m. April 18 for those ages 12-17 only. Permission slips, available at the library front desk, will be required for those 12 years of age.

The activity includes the making of a Mockingjay plate at 1 p.m.

Refreshments will be served. Space for the craft is limited. Sign up is available at the library, 11121 Wayne Road in Romulus.

For more information, call (734) 942-7589.

Steak dinner is served

The 3rd Annual Wayne County Fair Association Steak Dinner is set for 6 p.m. April 18.

The cost of the meal is $12 and includes salad, steak, potatoes, vegetables and dessert.

There will be a cash bar.

Proceeds benefit the Wayne County Fair.

The dinner will be served at the fairgrounds at 10871 Quirk Road in Belleville.

For more information, call (734) 697-7002.

Taste of Plymouth planned

The 2015 Showcase and Taste of Plymouth event will take place at 5 p.m. April 20 at The Inn at St. Johns, 44045 Five Mile Road in Plymouth.

The event will include samples from several restaurants and displays from many businesses.

As part of the event, the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce will recognize outstanding citizens from local service clubs and present scholarships to local students.

For more information, contact the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, (734) 453-1540 or visit www.plymouthmich.org.

Spring Clean Up set

The annual City of Plymouth Spring Clean Up will take place on Saturday, April 25 in all areas of the city. This is a single-day event for the entire City of Plymouth.

Residents should have item at the curb for pick up by 7 a.m. Officials said that items should not be placed at the curb more than 24 hours prior to pick up.

Additional information regarding the Spring Clean Up day can be found on the City of Plymouth website:

http://www.ci.plymouth.mi.us/index.aspx?nid=1069]

Spring Clean Up day is for large items and bagged/canned trash only.

Automated trash carts, automated recycling carts and compost/yard waste will not be picked up at this time. Questions about Spring Clean Up should be directed to (734) 453-7737.

Chamber hosts speaker

Jacqueline Young an economic development manager at DTE Energy will be the speaker at the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce business luncheon beginning at 11:30 a.m. April 21 at Embassy Suites Hotel, 8600 Wickham Road in Romulus.

Seating is limited and tickets are priced at $20 for chamber members and $25 for non-members. Reservations and tickets are available by phoning the chamber at (734) 893-0694.

Free books offered

The Romulus Public Library will host a special guest from the Public Service Credit Union to read to students during Family Story Time beginning at 6:30 p.m. April 21.

Free books will be given to participants.

The program is free but pre-registration is requested. To register or for more information, call (734) 942-7589.

The library is located at 11121 Wayne Road.

PENNdemonium event planned

Tickets are now available for the PENNdemonium annual dinner and auction to benefit Friends of the Penn.

The event will take place from 6-11 p.m. April 24 at the Meeting House Grand Ballroom. For more information, contact (734)453-0870.

Workshop deadline nears

Reservations for the Entrepreneurial Operating System workshop sponsored by the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce, Wayne County Community College District and the Romulus Public Library will be accepted until April 24 at (734) 955-4516.

The workshop will feature Duane Marshall who will guide the audience in crating a framework for running a business during a workshop from 12:20-2:30 p.m. June 12 at the Wayne County Community College Western Campus, 9555 Haggerty Road in Belleville.

The event includes registration and box lunch pick up beginning at 12:30. The presentation will begin at 1 p.m.

All who attend will receive a copy of Traction: Get a Grip on Your Business by Gino Wickman.

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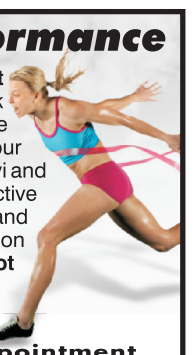

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